

State Advisory Committee (SAC) For the Education of Children with Disabilities

Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b

NHDOE, Room 15

4:30pm – 7:00pm

April 6, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Attended: SAC Members

Maureen Tracey (Chair), Bonnie Dunham (co-chair), Violetta Lortie, Jean Parsons, Maureen Shields, Lisa Hatz, Janet Reed, Lisa Beaudion, Lisa Hatz, Anne Davis, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Mike Pinard, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Candace Cole-McCrea, Lynda Thistle-Elliott, Janet Reed, Jason Henry, Tom Grinley, Jean Parsons, Karen Rosenberg, Donna Curtin, Jack Curtin, Eileen Mullen-Kennedy, Maureen Shields

Guest(s):

Santina Thibedeau, Administrator, Bureau of Special Education, Kim Carter, nominee Charter Schools, Presenters: Terri and Kate (NH School Psychologists) Jacqueline Kelleher, nominee, Naomi Sheffield, nominee

Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests

- Maureen began the meeting at approximately 4:36pm
- All attendees introduced themselves and stated their role

Nominations:

SAC nominees are invited to a SAC meeting, after attending the meeting if the individual is interested in becoming a member, a nomination is made by SAC Members.

Bonnie made a motion to nominate Jacqueline Kelleher to the State Advisory Committee in the role of parent representative. Lisa Beaudion seconded the nomination. All in favor, none opposed. Jacqueline moved to NH in fall, 2015, previously lived in Connecticut and was very actively involved in the SAC in Connecticut.

Other interested individuals for becoming members of SAC in attendance:

- Naomi Sheffield from Rivier University. Naomi is a teacher in the teacher preparation program at Rivier for the last 8 years and is interested in becoming a SAC member on behalf of a University.
- Kim Carter, executive director of non-profit organization, Making Community Connections is interested in joining on behalf of charter schools.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of March 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes
 - Discussion
 - Ann Davis was at the meeting, not included in the attendee list
 - Bonnie made the motion to approve the minutes as amended; Jason seconded. 11 approved, 11 abstentions. Motion approved.
- Approval of February 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes
 - Bonnie made the motion to approve the minutes, Lisa seconded. 10 approved, 12 abstentions. Motion approved.
- Approval of January 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes
 - Bonnie made the motion to approve the minutes, Lisa seconded. 10 approved, 7 abstentions.

Public Comment & Announcements

None

Legislative Updates Bonnie reviewed her Legislative Updates with SAC members.

- SB316, relative to placement decisions by a child's individualized education program team, passed both Houses as amended.
- SB320, relative to non-academic surveys administered by a public school to its students, ought to pass both Houses.
- SB354, requiring the commissioner and deputy commissioner of the department of education to be confirmed by joint session of the general court, held over.
- SB355, requiring the members of the state board of education to be elected by a joint session of the general court, interim study.
- SB439, has a new title: establishing a commission to study the shortage of nurses and other skilled health care workers for home health care services.
 - Amended and took out a representative of SAC on the committee, re-amended and placed SAC representative back on the committee. This is not a responsibility of SAC would recommend a Department of Education representative on the committee.
 - Sole role to support all the Nurses in the State, funding was cut. DHHS said they would help out.
 - School nurses have been struggling for a long time. The Bureau contracted with an individual to provide technical assistance to school nurses.
 - Bonnie would recommend not have a member on the committee, but have SAC provide information as a Committee. Lisa B will be attending the meeting, Bonnie to provide language on behalf of SAC to Lisa.
- SB483, new title: establishing a committee to study the necessity of creating a chartered public school program officer position and to study appropriations to chartered public schools for the 2016 and 2017 fiscal years.
 - Amended in Senate, the committee to recommend amending back to original language, bumped to next week.
- SB419, new title, as amended by Senate Finance; relative to Medicaid home health care services and relative to the scope of practice of licensed nursing assistants.
 - For kids educated in home setting
- SB534, to implement a system of care for children's behavioral health. Senate ought to pass.
- HB527, new title: requiring school districts employing school resource officers to adopt a written agreement.
 - Passed both Houses, waiting on signature of Governor

- HB536, relative to payment for special education services for chartered public school students and relative to federal funds for chartered public schools. Passed both Houses.
 - School districts to pay.
- HB1145, establishing a committee to study suspensions and expulsions in licensed preschools and in kindergarten through grade 3. Passed both Houses.
- HB1338, relative to student exemption from the statewide assessment.
 - Passed the House, going to Senate.
- HB 1372 permitting a child with a disability to use audio or video recording devices in the classroom.
 - Didn't make clear students with disabilities and need of devices; Bureau issued a memo with regards to this.
- HB1436, relative to earned time credits for prisoners participating in rehabilitative educational programing. Ought to pass.
- HB1644, relative to screening and dyslexia and related disorders and establishing a reading specialist in the DOE.
 - Dyslexia bill, K through 3rd grade will provide assessments; this bill mandates must be done when students enter into kindergarten. Mandates the NHDOE has a reading/writing specialist.
 - Santina; based on this bill the Bureau stepped up and if the bill passes we will contract with an individual to provide the services.

Meetings of Interest:

- Revisions to the New Hampshire Rules for the Education of Children with Disabilities were approved by the State Board of Education on March 24th. The State Board has scheduled public hearings on the proposed revisions to Ed 1100, New Hampshire Rules for the Education of Children with Disabilities.
 - May 28th at 11am at the State Board Meeting
 - June 16th at 11am at the State Board Meeting
 - June 16th at 6pm at the Department of Education

The Bureau of Special Education has valuable input meeting notes from the public hearings held. Bonnie would like to set time at the next SAC meeting to look at and to discuss and provide input to the State Board. SAC will provide public comment on what SAC came to a consensus on or close to a consensus, with documentation.

Bonnie will send out a factual document prior to the meeting. Would like at the June 1st meeting, for Santina to present to SAC what was presented at the Public Input Meetings. At the May meeting, SAC to provide specific questions to Santina for Santina to provide input to the questions/concerns at the June SAC meeting.

School Psychologist Association Presentation

Terri and Kate from the New Hampshire Association of School Psychologists presented information on School Psychologist's and their expanded roles, and how their roles vary from district to district; they are currently providing advocacy around the State to advise districts of their expanded roles.

School Psychologist's provide student level direct service, counseling for a variety of needs, consultations, training for teachers and paras, working with parents.

School Psychologist's provide mental health and behavior health needs; school wide practices for all students to help support and curriculum in meeting the needs of all students. They are trained in many different areas, not just for testing.

School Psychologist Association Presentation (cont'd)

Some school have a School Psychologist on staff, some districts contract; some School Psychologist's contract with several schools. School Psychologist are advocating for a larger role in the schools, early intervention and educating the school districts around their expanded role.

There is an event May 21st, the speaker is Paul LaBluff, on behavioral and mental health issues in the schools, specific details on the Association's website.

Lisa Hatz ~ Vocational Rehabilitation Update

Lisa provided updates on the Reauthorization work.

NH has been chosen as one of the States to receive intensive technical assistance from NHTEC; Sherry Burbank wrote the proposal for this technical assistance, she is a great resource . . . we got it !

The intensive technical assistance from NHTEC is going to help the market between VR and Special Education and the new law; how to better explain to everyone what VR responsibility is and what is SPED responsibility, what is the difference and how to provide training.

Lisa will be placed on the agenda for the next two months to continue to provide updates.

Update from the Bureau of Special Education ~ Santina

- The Bureau contracted vendor Pingora, SAC gave public input after the March meeting. The Bureau was given 60 days to review the draft report from Pingora, this has be changed to 30 days. The Bureau has invited a stakeholder group to review the draft report; to meet and discuss the report . . . are people in agreement with this statement; do you feel this is happening in NH? SAC and DRC are included within the stakeholder group.
- On April 12th the Office of Student Wellness in partnership with the New England Equity Assistance center of Brown University is holding a day-lone School Discipline Guidance Conference.
- Indicator 17 the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) has been submitted by the due date of April 1st. Focus looking at preschools and outcomes.
- The NHDOE has worked with Granite State College to create two teacher prep programs, one for the Visually Impaired and one for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Granite State College did get initial approval and had a few students for the Visually Impaired and none for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, as was in the process of approval for financial aid; which was approved at the last Board meeting.
- Secondary Transition and Next Steps; the Bureau has a contract with Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services for technical assistance for deaf students. The Bureau has expended their contract to work with PEPNET focusing on students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Old Business: Draft and discussion of Bylaws

A committee consisting of Maureen, Bonnie, Kerri Lynn Kimner, Maureen Shields and Lisa Beaudion review the current SAC Bylaws.

Please review the draft Bylaws and send input to Bonnie. Maureen and Bonnie want to send a draft to John Copenhaver to review prior to his training on May 9th.

New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment

Karen Rosenberg announced that the Executive Director for the Disability Rights Center has been recommended as a judge on the superior court; going before governor and council today.

Donna Curtin announced that Jack's book has sold over 175 books and Jack has read at over 120 schools and his book is available at Gibson. Jack attended authors night at Timberlane Regional and was asked up on stage when the PowerPoint slide with Jack's information was shown.

Old Business:

Maureen talked about the discussions held around the Prison and would like to close the discussion.

Bonnie made two recommendations

- The Bureau continues to collect data from the County Houses of Corrections and continue share with SAC.
- Seek input from the Bureau, county correctional facilities and school districts around the barriers and share with SAC and legislative committees.

After discussion, a motion was made by Jason to table the discussion on students with disabilities receiving services in the county house of correction. Jean Parsons seconded. All in favor.

At 7:07pm Jason made a motion to adjourn, Lisa Hatz seconded. All in agreement. Motion passes.

Next meeting ~ Wednesday, May 4, 4:30pm-7:00pm ~ NHDOE, Room 15